

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL

General Summary of News.

Vol. V.J.

[No. 196.

ASIA.

Our communications from the interior, are growing more frequent by every Dawk, and we hope soon to have as full and ample sources of Asiatic intelligence through the medium of private correspondence, as we already possess of European, from a constant supply of public Journals and new Works of the periodical literature of the day.

Our further postponement of the full Report of the Meeting at the Town-Hall on Wednesday, arises from the desire we have to make it complete, by allowing time for those gentlemen who advocated or who opposed the objects of the Meeting, to furnish us with as full and as faithful a report as their memories will furnish, of what fell from them; as the same feeling which prompted the desire to speak on the subject, must create the wish to have those sentiments recorded and preserved.

The great length of the Orders of Government, which, as they relate to the relief of the Bengal Army and change of the stations for the troops, we can neither abridge or delay, obliges us to defer several interesting communications from our Friends and Correspondents, which shall however find an early place.

We revert to the general Asiatic intelligence, most of which has reached us by Letters from the interior, with the exception of a few paragraphs from the Government Gazette of yesterday, and the Mirror of the preceding day. They follow in the order of their respective dates.

Sanger.—Communications from this quarter impose on us the gratifying task of giving publicity to the distinguished mark of respect shewn to the memory of a young and accomplished Officer, by his surviving brethren in arms; and if there be one department of our labours more agreeable than another, it is assuredly this of joining our humble voice in paying the need to distinguished merit, and holding forth to the living, the excitement offered by the applause and renown that await the actions of the worthy dead.

General Watson and the Officers, Civil and Military, attached to the station of Sanger, have united in paying the debt of justice due to the distinguished merits of the late Lieutenant Strettell, by erecting there a Monument to his memory, with the following inscription:

"Sacred to the Memory of Lieutenant Edward Francis Strettell, Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General on the Bengal Establishment, Obit 3rd September 1819, A.M. 27. This Monument is erected by the Officers, Civil and Military, at the Station and in the Division of the Army at Sanger, as an honorable testimony of the high sense they entertained of his public and private character.

Menant.—We have received Letters from this station of the 8th instant, one of which says,—

The rains set in here about the 10th of the last month, since which period they have been regular and seasonable.

The prevailing Epidemic attacked His Majesty's 14th Regiment about the middle of last month, and in the course of a week they lost about forty men. It had ceased in some degree when the Regiments were marched out to the Race Course, about three miles from Cantonments, where they got quite rid of it, and returned on the 29th, having been encamped about a week.

His Majesty's 8th Dragoons had a few cases only, one or two of which proved fatal, and the Horse Brigade entirely escaped.

Oude.—Surrob Dowan Singh, the outlaw of Dwarkah, has lately recommenced making collections, and had obtained about five thousand rupees, before a party from Dwarkah drove him away. We lament that this Highness the Nuwab Vizier, should not extend to this Zemindar, the favor which he has shown to many much more unworthy, and pitiful in possession of part of the lands that have been taken from him; the more particularly, as we know that his family is one of the few among the Rajkoomars who disown the practice of female Infanticide; a circumstance that must ensure to him the favor of the British Government, if it were thought proper to interfere in the interior management of his Highness's dominions, "a consummation devoutly to be wished."

Singapore, Sept. 15.—Since the 25th of last month we have had rain daily throughout the neighbourhood. The maize ears are sold to-day at the rate of thirty seers for the rupee, which produce about eighteen seers of grain. The poor are thereby completely relieved from their late state of starvation; moreover every thing wears the appearance of a favorable Rice harvest, and the ground is in high preparation for the wheat and barley crops.

Few Indigo Manufacturers commenced working before the 8th instant, those who began earlier had fine and plentiful produce for some days; and from the continuance of the rain, the quantity has greatly decreased, but the quantity continues very good. The roads are completely cut up in every direction by the rains, and yesterday evening four Calcutta mails were due.

Dinapore.—We have a Letter from Dinapore, dated on the 17th instant, which communicates to us the following items of local intelligence:

The Cholera Morbus is very prevalent among the Natives, five of whom were attacked the night before last, and died in less than half an hour. An unfortunate accident also occurred two days ago: a man and woman sleeping upon the same charpoy, were both bit by a snake, the former on the little finger and the latter on the foot; the woman died instantaneously, the man survived. This circumstance I think proves an instance of native superstition; it is reported that a man, a few eoss on the other side of the river, once succeeded in saving a person who had been supposed dead from the bite of a snake for the space of three days; people have been sent in quest of this (as the natives term him) supernatural being; and the corpse of the woman is retained until his arrival,

Chittagong.—The following is an extract of a Letter from this quarter, dated September 16, 1819:—

"Yesterday at 10 o'clock P. M. we had a severe repetition of the shock of an Earthquake. It differed widely from the last. The first part of the shock resembled the concussion of a boat coming hard against a rock very suddenly, after which it ended in that undulating motion which they in general have. We had not any rumbling subterraneous warnings of its approach. The weather at Chittagong still continues rather close, which induces us to think we shall yet be visited again."

Cashmeer.—The Lahore Ukhbars describe the success of Dewan Chund in collecting the revenue at Cashmeer in high terms. His exertions have doubled the amount realized by Mahommud Uzeem Khan, the former Nizam, and this intelligence has of course given great satisfaction to Runjeet Sing. By the same channel we learn that Mahommud Uzeem Khan had quitted Peshawur, and was on his way to Caubul, leaving the former place entirely unguarded. We have no accounts of Shah Shooja, but if he becomes acquainted in time with the evacuation of Peshawur, he will probably assemble his friends, the Khyberrees, and endeavour to secure possession of that important city.

Singapore.—Accounts from Singapore state, that Major Farquhar was about to proceed in the schooner Enterprise, to survey the Straits and Island. Captains Ross and Crawford were at Singapore on the 6th of August, after having surveyed the Straits of Banca, Dryon, and Malacca, and the Island of Lingin, and were on the eve of returning to China.

Rhio.—The Dutch have taken complete possession of Rhio, and have pensioned the Rajah Mooda with 1200 dollars per month. The Rajah Mooda is son of Rajah Ali, who was killed by a cannon ball at the siege of Malacca in the year 1784.

Those who may be interested in the genealogy of this princely family, may learn the following further particulars: The Rajah Mooda's sister was one of Sultaun Mahomed's wives, but had no family. The Sultaun's first wife was sister to the Rajah of Padang, and mother of Tuan Koo Long, the present Sultaun of Johore. Sultaun Mahomed left a younger son by another wife, who is now Rajah of Lingin.

Calcutta.—A most singular curiosity has been brought to this presidency by a Portuguese vessel lately arrived from Brazil. It is described in the Times of Tuesday, and incredible as it may appear to those who have not studied the wonderful combinations of nature, it seems to be a mass of Amethysts, of the enormous dimensions of four feet in circumference, by something less than one foot in height, and weighing ninety-eight pounds. It is in its rough state, and is described rather as an assemblage of more than fifty irregular columns, high, smooth, transparent, purple and white, shooting up like crystallizations from one common bed or source, than as a regularly formed and perfect stone. Since writing the above we have been favoured with a sight of it at the office of Messrs. Joseph Bareto and Co. and find it to correspond in every respect with the above description. It was sent from the Brazils as a real Amethyst, and such also has it been declared by professional men who have examined it since its arrival in Calcutta. We believe that one essential to the value of an amethyst, and which places it on a rank with the ruby, sapphire, and other precious gems, is hardness. This quality however is seldom met with, in any but such as are of a roundish or pebble-like form, many of those which are found in this country and in America being little harder than common crystal, and of comparatively inferior value to the former. Modern discoveries, if we are not mistaken, have proved the amethyst to be nothing more than a quartz or rock crystal of a deeper or paler violet colour, which, from the circumstance of its disappearing in the fire, is supposed to have some other than a metallic origin. Some specimens we understand have been brought from the Oural mountains in Siberia, in which the groups of columns have been extremely numerous, and some of them of the thickness of a man's arm, which rather exceeds any that we observed in the present group. At any rate the extraordinary mass of crystallizations which we have been endeavouring to describe, will prove a most invaluable study for the naturalist, should it fail of being equally precious in the estimation of the lapidary [Mir,

Warren Hastings.

Pursuant to the Resolutions of a Meeting of the Inhabitants of Calcutta, on Monday the 13th, the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. LARKINS, accompanied by Mr. PALMER, Sir CHARLES D'OVYLY, and Major BRYANT, waited by permission on His Excellency the Most Noble the MARQUIS OF HASTINGS, on Saturday the 18th instant.

The Chairman addressed His Lordship in the following terms:—

My Lord,—At a Meeting held at the Town Hall on Monday the 13th, by the British Inhabitants of Calcutta, for the purpose of taking into consideration the best mode of expressing the respect entertained by this Settlement for the character of the late Right Hon'ble Warren Hastings, it was unanimously resolved, that a Statue be erected in the City to perpetuate the memory, the virtues and public services of this great and eminent Statesman, and we have been deputed respectfully to communicate the resolutions to your Lordship, and to solicit permission to erect the Statue in Tank-Square, or any other site that may after due consideration be deemed equally eligible and conspicuous.

We venture to anticipate your Lordship's hearty concurrence in the feeling which pervades the public mind on this interesting occasion, and dare to believe that your Lordship is as desirous as the most devoted amongst us to join in this commemorative tribute of public veneration to a Statesman whose vigour and counsels so essentially contributed to the protection and extension of our possessions in this country, to uphold the honor of the British name, and support the credit, the influence, and authority of the government over which he presided.

It is with this impression on our minds that we are induced to solicit your Lordship's patronage and support in furtherance of the object of the General Meeting.

In reply to this Address from the Chairman, His Lordship was pleased to assure the Committee that he concurred warmly in the sentiments they had expressed respecting the venerated character to whose memory they wished to raise a permanent trophy, and that he should be most happy in being allowed to contribute towards that object. His Lordship mentioned that he had been earnestly punctual in his attendance as one of the Judges on the trial of Warren Hastings, with whom he had never exchanged even a word or a communication before the conclusion of that impeachment. He believed that he had entered on that duty without prepossession or prejudice, and he trusted that the vote of acquittal which he had pronounced on all the charges was conscientious. Of this he was sure, that all which he had learned since his arrival in this Country strongly supported the rectitude of the verdict which he had then delivered.

The concurrent testimony of a Nobleman so exalted, and so conscientious, to the merits of kindred excellence, must offer the best incentive to the expression of feelings already alive to Mr. HASTINGS's character, and to substantial acts of liberality to promote the object contemplated by the Public of India, who are best calculated to appreciate his merit; an act, to which it is as much the duty, as were confident it will be found the inclination of all to contribute.

As this feeling springs not solely from a general admiration of the brilliant qualities of Mr. HASTINGS's mind, and the talents displayed in his administration, but has been nourished and fostered in the minds of all who remember him by grateful recollections of extended benevolence and fatherly care over millions of the Native Inhabitants of India, it is not unreasonable, we think, to expect from them a participation in the contributions. There cannot be a Native family of any consequence that has not some legend in it, connected with the beneficent spirit of the great HASTINGS, or that does not in some degree, feel an hereditary veneration for his memory. Nor could they have a better opportunity of proving themselves sensible of his merits, than by pressing forward now their remembrance of his long and intimate association with their interests and welfare.

A very gratifying and beneficial result will attend the full success of the object contemplated by the Public in this instance, namely, that any surplus arising from the subscriptions, beyond the sum requisite to accomplish it, is to be distributed among the Charitable Institutions now so widely established in India. Thus will the overflows of veneration for the man, run into the channels of Charity so congenial to his own character and principles.

At a full Meeting of the Committee on Monday, the 20th of September 1819, for carrying into effect the Resolutions of the General Meeting of the Inhabitants, held at the Town Hall on Monday the 13th instant, for the erection of a Statue to the memory of Warren Hastings:—

Resolved, That the Proceedings and Resolutions of the late General Meeting be published in the Government Gazette.

Resolved, That the Proceedings and Resolutions aforesaid be printed, and that copies of them be forwarded to every station of the Army, and Civil Establishment, and recommended to the particular protection of the Chief in authority.

Resolved, that the Proceedings and Resolutions be translated into Persian, Bengalee, and Hindostane, for the purposes of general circulation to the Native Inhabitants under this Presidency, and that Mr. WYNCH be requested to prepare the Resolutions.

Resolved, That the principal Authority at each station be requested to collect the Subscriptions at that station, and to remit the amount to the Treasurers, Messrs. Palmer and Co.

(Signed) J. P. LARKINS, Chairman.

School Book Society.

On Tuesday the 21st of September, instant, took place the Second Annual General Meeting of the CALCUTTA SCHOOL BOOK SOCIETY.

Though at an unfavorable time, the number of Natives was considerable; and among the European friends to the Institution present, were some of the principal Gentlemen of the Settlement.

W. B. BAYLEY, Esq. being called to the chair, on the motion of the Honorable the Chief Justice, read the Report of the Committee's Proceedings since the general Meeting of July, 1818: whereupon it was

Moved by the Honorable J. ADAM, Esq. seconded by Sir E. H. EAST, and resolved unanimously,

"That the Report be adopted by the Meeting and printed under direction of the Committee for distribution."

The CHAIRMAN then announced that agreeably to what had been a frequent object of the Committee's wishes, he had obtained the consent of the Most Noble the MARQUIS OF HASTINGS to be formally placed at the head of the Institution as PATRON; observing in substance, that for his Lordship not to have manifested his decided esteem for such associations, would indeed have been inconsistent with the well-known benevolent attention constantly manifested by him for the best interests of the Natives of this Country. To this the Meeting with common acclamation requested Mr. BAYLEY to present their warmest thanks for the honor thus conferred on them.

Sir EDWARD HYDE EAST next addressed the Meeting in an animated speech, of which we can only offer the leading ideas. Regarding with heartfelt delight a spectacle so gratifying and uncommon before him as a Meeting composed of some of the principal European Gentlemen with the most respectable Natives, Hindoo and Moosulman, in disseminating useful knowledge throughout the country, he naturally adverted to the Illustrious Patron of this Association; instituting a happy comparison between the dazzling glories of his Lordship's military fame, and the milder but more lasting honors of this engaging feature of his Lordship's administration; since by withdrawing the minds of men from war to the moral improvement of their fellow creatures, he was establishing a name which would live in the annals of this and similar Societies to the latest posterity—In short, in thus presiding over and fostering the various endeavours now making to diffuse that knowledge which should tend to improve the moral condition of the many millions placed under his care, he knew no man who could more justly say of himself

"Eregi monumentum aere perennius."

Having expressed thus much, he could not refrain now from adding the slender but hearty tribute of his applause to the worthy Chairman, who might with justice be termed the "foster father" of the Society; as it was well known that notwithstanding so much of his laborious life was unavoidably consumed in the important duties of his high station, he had uniformly manifested the same attention to the interests of the Society, and had found time for regularly attending the stated meetings of its Committee—He felt it was a striking feature of this Association that here was no room for the exhibition of pride and vanity, or the indulgence of those passions which disturb the peace of man, but it was an union of the most benevolent nature, productive of solid advantage, and in a word,—a Society which could not but be pleasing in the eyes of God.

The CHIEF JUSTICE then concluded by suggesting the expediency of a modification of such of the Society's rules as were inapplicable to its present relations, and the recent accession to its respectability and efficiency. He had therefore to propose for the sanction of the general Meeting.

That a President and four Vice-Presidents be elected in addition to the Members who have hitherto formed the Committee, and that the former Rules V. VI. and VIII. being rescinded, the following be adopted in lieu of them as Rule "V." That the business of the Institution be conducted by a Committee, which shall comprise a President, 4 Vice-Presidents, and 20 Members, 10 of them being Natives, to be annually chosen at a general meeting in July, who shall associate with themselves as Members *ex-officio*, a Treasurer, a Collector, an European and Native Recording Secretary, and an European and Native Corresponding Secretary, with as many other Secretaries as the Sub-Committees it may be expedient to form shall require."

The rule was accordingly generally adopted.

Mr. FORBES proposed in consequence that W. B. BAYLEY, Esq. be elected President of the Calcutta School Book Society, which motion was seconded by HOLT MCKENZIE, Esq. and unanimously adopted.

And Mr. SHERER, seconded by Mr. LUSHNITON, moved that the following Gentlemen be also elected Vice-Presidents:

Honorable Sir EDWARD HYDE EAST,
WILLIAM EDWARD REES, Esq.
WILLIAM THEOPHILUS METCALFE, Esq. and
W. H. TRANT, Esq.

and the same were elected accordingly.

Various other resolutions were then unanimously adopted, the detail of which will appear hereafter.

The PRESIDENT representing the exhausted state of the funds after an expenditure since the last annual meeting of 20,000 Rs. on the objects of the Society, the European Gentlemen present put down in Donations and Annual Subscriptions upwards of 5,500 Rs.

With reference to the funds of this Society, and the general appeal about to be made in its favour, it may be observed that it has not, properly speaking, called on the public at large for a space of two years. The support given it on being brought forward in 1817 was so liberal, that the Managers then felt they had the more difficult task of procuring the execution of work proportionate to the extent of the funds. In the first year the expenditure was 5,000 Rs. leaving on the 4th of July, 1818, a favorable balance of 13,000 Rs. in Cash and Government Securities.

Soon after, three new Institutions in this Metropolis arose to claim to support from the Public which they obtained as well as merited.* The Managers of the Calcutta School Book Society, considering therefore that the Institution under their charge was in no immediate want of funds, felt the propriety of refraining from bringing forward its claims to public notice. Circumstances are now however quite altered. The Institutions in question are established on a firm basis, while the funds of this Society are brought to a low ebb; the demands on it for new works and new editions in 6 Languages, for the supply of seminaries of all descriptions, mean time progressively multiplying. To carry thro' the works actually printing, or ready for press, would alone require a large sum.

The Society's complete organization and arrangements will now enable it to expand with effect even the most ample pecuniary supplies; which, after the experience gained, arrangements adopted, and connections established up to the present time, are alone now wanting. Whatever then might be the natural fear of a failure of the funds on this occasion, the liberality of the Community of this Country will surely not allow such a cause to bar the attainment of the many important objects obviously within reach of the Society's immediate accomplishment.

[*Gaz. Gaz.*]

New Opinions on Brevet Rank.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

MR. EDITOR,

Permit me to offer a few remarks upon the introduction of Brevet Rank into our Army as a reward for merit, which have not, I believe, been yet touched upon, by either of your Correspondents on that subject.

May not our present list of Companions of the Bath be taken as a specimen of what might be expected, from the introduction of Brevet Rank? Are they all of them men who have distinguished themselves? or is there not one or two amongst them whose "blushing honors," sit but ill upon them? and who are considered as more indebted to the Troops they commanded, than to any merit of their own. And on the other hand, do we not see several very distinguished Field Officers who are not yet included in the list?

Would not the aspiring Captains of a Regiment be often kept in the back ground, merely from their being commanded by an old Officer, whom it was not considered prudent to entrust with a Brigade? Or, one who felt himself more at home in the lower Provinces, than he would be on the banks of the Nerbudda, or in Rajepootanah? Instances might be adduced of corps advancing as the Officers thought to join the Army, when all at once they were ordered into Cantonnements, merely for the reasons now assigned.

Brevet Rank, as a reward for merit, has not I believe ever been granted in the Royal Army, to any Officer whose name was not previously noticed in the Gazette. And yet we all know that in the course of a long campaign, even under the most distinguished and impartial Generals, a variety of accidents and circumstances will arise, by which Officers who distinguish themselves are overlooked and unnoticed. Allow me to state two instances.

A Lieutenant who by great good fortune got the temporary command of a Battalion, had an opportunity of greatly distinguishing himself in the defence of a convoy against the combined Troops of Holkar, Ameer Khawn, and the Rajah of Bhirtpoor, and yet this Subaltern remained unnoticed and unknown, whilst the Major of Cavalry who commanded, carried off all the laurels.

In 1816, a Brevet Major made a most gallant charge with three Companies, by which the enemy was defeated, and one of his guns captured, and it was erroneously stated, that the Battalion made the charge, by which mistake, the Lieut. Col. was made a C. B. and the Major passed over.

These circumstances are well known to the Army; and I believe to our illustrious Commander in Chief; for both of the Officers alluded to, have lately been selected to command Battalions. But yet they would have lost all claim to Brevet promotion, merely because their names did not appear in the Gazette.

There are a variety of arguments that could be used against the introduction of Brevet promotion as now proposed, which delicacy to those concerned, renders it impossible to bring forward in a publick shape. But the more it is considered, the more evident it must appear, that it would be attended with fatal consequences to the prospects of many very deserving Officers, whilst ultimately it would not fail to operate, more as an injury than a benefit to the Army at large.

A FRIEND TO MERIT.

* The Leper Asylum, the School Branch of the Calcutta Diocesan Committee and the Calcutta School Society.

Courts Martial.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

If the following observations on the question lately raised in your Journal, respecting the right of the minority at a General Court Martial to take a part in awarding punishment, are not too long for insertion, I shall be obliged by your publishing them. Should, however, you consider them inadmissible on account of their length, I will thank you to destroy the paper, since I do not wish the remarks to be published in separate portions.

A. B.

Observations.

At page 361, vol. 2nd, 3rd, edit. of MCARTHUR's Work on Courts Martial, the following case is given as one which was submitted for the opinion of Sir C. MORGAN, Judge Advocate General.

Case. Supposing, in collecting the opinions of the members respecting the guilt of the prisoner, his guilt to be determined by a bare majority, are the minority, in this case, obliged to be directed by the majority, and to vote for the punishment to be awarded? or can they refuse to vote, under the plea of not having found the prisoner guilty.

Sir C. MORGAN replied, "that such members of a Court Martial, whose votes have absolved the prisoner of the crime objected to him, ought not to be called upon, to award *any* punishment, which they cannot consistent with reason or justice, do. The question of punishment addresses itself to those members exclusively who have found the prisoner guilty; but it may, not perhaps, be amiss to intimate, if it should happen that the officers who compose the majority of the Court, and who have concurred in the conviction of the prisoner, should differ in sentiment with respect to the degree of punishment, in such case the prisoner ought to have the benefit of a presumptive opinion, of those members who have absolved him, thrown into the scale with the votes of those who incline to the lesser punishment; for otherwise, the prisoner would be put in a worse situation than if those members had, deemed him in some degree culpable. This appears to me consonant to equity, but does not rest upon my opinion merely; it is conformable to the practice which has invariably prevailed in every case that has occurred within my experience."

ADVE, in his Work on Courts Martial, 6th edit. page 212,* and MCARTHUR vol. 2d, pages 193-9 and 249, take the same view of the question; the latter, indeed, using Sir C. MORGAN's words. On the other hand TYTLER, in his Book on Military Law, 1st edit. page 218, says, that the Members who vote for acquittal are not to be debarred from voting on the question of punishment, considering it unjust that those who think most favorably of a prisoner's case, should be precluded from rendering his punishment as mild as possible. The practice mentioned by Sir C. MORGAN, seems to have been unknown to TYTLER.

In the opinion expressed by the latter author, I entirely concur, and shall state my reasons for doing so.

A Court Martial is acknowledged to possess the united powers of Jury and Judge, in which capacities the Members have two distinct duties to perform, each of which must be considered as the act of the whole Court, and in which, no Member can decline, or be deprived of the right of taking a part. In their capacity as jurors, the Members are first called on to say whether the prisoner is guilty or not guilty, and as soon as their verdict is given, (the majority binding the minority,) it becomes the act of the whole Court. The duty of the Members as jurors now ceases; they assume the function of Judges, and proceed to pass sentence on the prisoner. As judges they are not called on, to consider the question of guilt or innocence, but are to apply the law to the crime of which the offender has been found guilty.

If this view of the subject is a correct one, a Member of a Court Martial, in his judicial capacity, cannot refuse to take part in the distinct and separate duty assigned to him; because in a previous and quite a different stage of the proceedings, he had pronounced the prisoner not guilty of the crime laid to his charge. A judge passes sentence on the verdict of a jury without reference to his own opinion of its justness, only so far as that opinion may lead him to soften the punishment; and the Military judge is equally bound to follow up the verdict of a Court Martial. In my opinion each Member is individually and directly responsible that the law is properly applied, that the punishment is neither irregular nor excessive, a responsibility from which he cannot release himself, by abstaining, on such grounds as are stated by Sir C. MORGAN, from performing his judicial duty, from which he cannot, I conceive, legally absolve himself. If he can decline it, then the majority does not bind the minority, but actually separates from it; the Court becomes constituted in a manner not recognized by Military Law, and its sentence would, in my opinion be illegal.†

* In page 217 the words used by ADVE convey a different opinion; for he says "If nine Members do not vote for death, the question of what other punishment is to be awarded, must be proposed to every Member indiscriminately, and each Member gives his voice *de novo*."

† Suppose the order for assembling a Court Martial run thus: "A Court Martial will assemble, &c. for the trial of A. B. &c. After the trial shall have terminated the same Court will sit in a judicial capacity to pass sentence on the prisoner agreeably to the law as applicable to the crime of which he shall be found guilty." This I think would put an end to all doubt, and is nothing more than is obviously implied by the double capacity in which a Court Martial is called on to act.

With respect to the support which Sir C. MORGAN's opinion derive from the practice at Courts Martial, whose proceedings have come under his notice, it should be considered that the decisions on disputed points in Military Courts, are, from the secrecy of their proceedings, so seldom subjected to general discussion and examination, as not to be entitled to unquestioned authority, on a point of so much importance.

* With my present means of information, such is the opinion I have formed on the question under consideration, an opinion which I think is strengthened by the conduct of those, whose doctrine I oppose, for it appears to me, that the authors of it, strongly feeling the want of sufficient authority in support of it, found themselves in a manner compelled by an outward countenance indirectly to restore to the minority, its share of the judicial proceedings, the direct exertion of which, they had just before denied to it.*

In short, the minority are under an obligation to vote on the question of punishment, or they are not; if they are not, they have nothing to do in the business, and their presumptive opinion cannot be allowed any influence through the expedient explained by Sir C. MORGAN.

At page 248-9, Vol. 2, of McARTHUR'S Work, he says, that the members of a Naval Court Martial, who have voted for acquittal, are not to be precluded from giving their votes on the question of punishment, a principle he observes, consonant with the benignity of our laws, in favor of a prisoner; it being natural to presume that the acquitting members will use their influence to mitigate by their votes the punishment to be inflicted. If so, it may be asked why what is so proper at a Naval Court, should, at a Military one be deemed inconsistent with reason or justice? as stated by him in the paragraph immediately following.

The duty to the minority is an unpleasant one, but that will not justify a dereliction of it, although it might be urged as a reason for altering the law.

Novelties.

"Music bath charms &c."

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

The lovers of harmony have, if current rumours may be credited, good reason to look forward to delicious treats in the course of the approaching cold season. An old favorite has recently returned to Calcutta; and new candidates for public admiration have arrived in this city, of whose powers it would be purely supererogatory to say any thing, after the delightfully exciting account which you have given of them in a late Journal. Ere long, too, the Organic wonders of the PAN-HARMONICON will, as it is said, peal upon the astonished ears of an Indian auditory, from the house of its possessor at Birjee-tollah.

We, whose destinies send us out to India, experience a melancholy want, generally speaking, of rational evening amusement. Here are no singing birds: we have chirping insects, and croaking frogs; but they do not chirp or croak musically.

In some other countries, people are more happily situated; for, in the Third Part of Dr. Clarke's Travels through Europe, Asia, and Africa, it appears, that he and his comrades enjoyed the pleasure of a natural CONCERT, without any necessity for loosening their purse-strings to pay the *piper*. In his progress from Hamburg to Copenhagen, Dr. C. says, "that which offered the greatest novelty to our party, was the loud and incessant chorus of myriads of frogs, the whole way from Lubeck to Eutin. To call it croaking, would convey a very erroneous idea of it, because it is really harmonious; and we gave to these reptiles the name of *Holstein Nightingales*. Those who have not heard it, would hardly believe it to be possible for any number of frogs to produce such a powerful and predominating clamour. The effect of it, however, is certainly not unpleasing; especially after sunset, when all the rest of animated nature is silent, and seems to be at rest. The noise of any one of them singly, as we sometimes heard it near the road, was, as usual, disagreeable, and might be compared to the loudest quacking of a duck; but when, as it generally happened, tens of thousands, nay millions, sang together, it was a choral vibration, varied only by cadences of sound, something like those produced upon musical glasses; and it accorded with the uniformity which twilight casts over the woods and waters."

I heartily wish, Mr. Editor, that the myriads of frogs which sing in my neighbourhood, of an evening, after a fall of rain, had any music in their vile souls, and would betake themselves to chords and cadences; but, alas! though I unwillingly have often been compelled to listen to their "sweat voices" for hours together, I never could make any thing out of their vibrating chauntings, beyond an incessant claim and menace (with a horrible *bullyish* kind of intonation) of "Pay me what you owe me. Pay me what you owe me. I'll go to law. I'll go to law." This has, sometimes, been so exceedingly unpleasant to me, that I should rather call the frogs of Bengal *Jail-birds*, than *Nightingales*.

Yours, in a quaver at the very idea,

SOL-FA.

* In an advertisement to the 3rd edit. of TYTLER'S work, some observations on it by Sir C. MORGAN are given; amongst them, one on the question under discussion in which he says, that the practice at the Horse Guards, though different in its mode from that contended for, by TYTLER, yet is tantamount in its effect. The question, however, is not the end obtained, but whether the means, by which it has been reached, are legal.

+ At page 198-9, Vol. 2nd, McARTHUR states, that the condemning majority are to assign the punishment, but I presume, that he refers to Military Courts, the context leaves it doubtful.

Redress of Grievances.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I was surprised that you, who in general take the most comprehensive and enlightened views of every subject, especially the civil rights of mankind, should have given so confused and dark a view of that of my Letter addressed to you in June last.

I have it now from high authority that, "in cases where the individual is personally interested, an Officer stands in the situation of a person not holding a military commission, and is at liberty to resort to the Magistrate for Redress of Grievances, in such manner as the Laws of the country may prescribe, and which may not be inconsistent with his professional obligations."

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

A SOLDIER.

Remark.—The opinion given by us in a Note to Correspondents, in the 119th Number of our Journal, for June last, to which this Letter refers, was as follows:

The Letter of "A SOLDIER," desiring to know whether in cases of civil disputes between himself and a native, a Magistrate can decline communicating with him except through the channel of his Commanding Officer, we are unable to answer. We can conceive that the delay and vexation which such necessity would create, must be naturally great, but we are not sufficiently acquainted with the peculiar regulations of military discipline to decide whether this is conformable to them or not. We should have thought, that Commanding Officers would be a better channel than any other through which to make an appeal to justice, as their influence would give weight to any well founded complaint.

Reference.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

The Subject of the "Second Military Query" is so very fully and ably discussed, in the Essay, republished through the Medium of your Journal of Tuesday the 21st instant, bearing the Signature of H. W. that nothing further is left for me to say on the point, than that I most fully concur in the opinions therein stated, I must therefore, beg leave to call AN OFFICER'S attention to that Essay;—and I trust, after he has given it a careful perusal, he will cease to think that my commendable love of Mercy carries me beyond the bounds of both Law and Justice.

I am Sir, your most obedient Servant,

Calcutta, Sept. 21, 1819.

CENTURION.

Theatricals.

[We are altogether so charmed with the good humor and buoyant spirits of self approbation, that mark this second Letter of THEATRICUS, which was sent us on Tuesday, but then omitted for want of room, that we cannot refrain from giving it a place; begging him at the same time to believe that if we should not be able to find room for any future communications, it will not be because his past ones have not afforded us entertainment, for to say the truth,—the perusal of his unrivalled critiques entertain us almost as much as witnessing the exhibitions themselves.]

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Your innuendos in this day's Journal are very judicious and satisfactory, tho' you withheld yourself from interrogating the ambiguousness on the sequel of my remarks, I must elucidate to you the motives which made me to attempt in addressing you on the 19th ultimo advertising the representations of the Chowringhee Theatre on Friday last.

Some Months ago I had availed myself of the pleasure in stating my candid opinion of the performances which was then exhibited at the Chowringhee Theatre and sent to be inserted in one of the Gazettes but the Editor it appears suppressed it, and on the same Topic it was afterwards enumerated in your Free and excellent Paper to such magnitude that the sentiments therein almost concurred with mine, and I have now experienced that he is Editor of a Ministerial paper, and for other reasons (which he was aware of himself) he found it necessary not to give publication and as I was dubious whether you would take it in hand, I wrote it as concise as possible, but it was certainly a great omission on my part to have concluded it so cursorily and I hope you are not going to upbraid me for commenting merely upon Farces (although I must maintain that the Love Laughs at Locksmiths is one of the best written Farces on the English Stage) as I have incessantly concurred in your remarks, which I do it even now, should you however feel that I am inclined to debate upon trifling subjects, I will convince you that it far from my wishes for your independance, I beg to offer you many apologies for my inadvertance, however if you have room to spare in one of your Columns I shall feel greatly obliged by your inserting the above in vindication of your remarks, and I trust you will in future allow me to trouble you as occasion may require.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

THEATRICUS.

September 21, 1819.

Right of Challenge.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

There is a Letter signed HIRTIUS, in your Journal of Tuesday, which, in an attempt to overturn my arguments, serves to add considerable weight to them, by the weakness of some of those with which it opposes me:—nor does any part of it serve to strengthen the position which the writer endeavours to maintain.

He sets out with asserting, that Custom, the custom of the Army, has determined that Prisoners are not permitted to Challenge the members of inferior Courts: and that therefore "that is the Law." Now as to this custom, I cannot say how long it has existed, or even whether it be general throughout the British Army; but if it be a bad and unjust custom, we might indulge a hope that the proper Authorities would abolish it, though its age should be two Centuries, instead of one, particularly as from the spirit and practice both of Civil Law, and of General Courts Martial, being so very different from it, it must be presumed illegal.

HIRTIUS, in reply to a question of mine which asks what reason can be adduced for allowing of Challenges before a General, which will not apply with equal force, on the side of an Inferior Court, produces two or three reasons, one of which he calls of "vital importance," and which is, that a Prisoner may be tried for a capital crime before the former, but before any other he cannot.

Now let me ask HIRTIUS, whether he means seriously to bring that reason forward to prove, that there is no necessity for acting in strict conformity with justice when trying a minor offence, as well as when judging a capital one? If the man should have only one lash to receive, that one ought to be as legally inflicted as "shooting him to death" ought; and I still maintain that it is not legally awarded, if the Prisoner be refused his right of Challenge.

"Another difference, he says, is that Prisoners before Inferior Courts Martial are tried by men of a superior rank in life,—little likely to be affected by the cause of personal dislike and hostility." By calling this a difference, he plainly asserts that a Prisoner before a General Court Martial is not tried by men of a superior rank in life, "but I really hope (for his own sake) that he has here asserted more than he intended, for although he confines his remarks to European Privates (making matters still worse!) yet I can inform him, and he positively seems to require such information, that no Officer even can be tried, but by people of whom a considerable proportion are of a superior rank in life" to himself:

As to the latter part of that difference I must say that HIRTIUS has drawn a very wrong conclusion, by asserting that "dislike and hostility," are little likely to affect the members of an inferior Court Martial.* Now I conceive that from the circumstance of such members being acquainted with the parties, and generally with a great many of the circumstances which attended the fact, are very likely to be biased; at any rate much more likely than those Officers who sit on a General Court Martial; and that, therefore, this, instead of being a reason against allowing Challenges at such Courts, is a very strong one for their being permitted.

Finally, he says, "the Prisoner may appeal if he thinks himself aggrieved." This is the grand stand-by of those who wish to deprive the accused of his most important privilege. Will HIRTIUS tell me what I have asked before, whether a man can be said to be tried at all, if his Judges are unquestionably corrupt or prejudiced. If not, then the trial before the General Court Martial will in fact be the original one.

HIRTIUS next proceeds to comment upon the case I supposed, of a man being condemned and punished by the decision of three members, two of whom were prejudiced; and he begins by pronouncing it an impossible case. He observes that the Prisoner cannot be flogged *summariè et de plano*, by the decision of three members; because the Commanding Officer must first confirm the proceedings after a careful examination of them. But, let me ask him how is the Commanding Officer to know that the condemnation and sentence have been carried by a majority composed of prejudiced members? He sees nothing on the face of the Proceedings to inform him which of the members voted on one side and which on the other, consequently he must confirm the finding and sentence of the Court, unless some other parts of the Trial appear to have been illegally conducted. If he observes, indeed, that a Prisoner has challenged one of his jurors, he may suspect from that circumstance that prejudice might have existed; but then his suspicion must be too slight to warrant a disapproval of the Proceedings on that account merely. He will not see the Prisoner's reasons I imagine for wishing to remove a certain member, because, if the Right of Challenge be disallowed, the Court must not admit of any discussions, or proof of the Prisoner's objection being well or ill founded, but over-rule his challenge at once, on the ground of its illegality. The Commanding Officer seeing that they have done so, and thinking their conduct lawful, will of course confirm their Proceedings, and then the infliction of the punishment is left entirely at his mercy; consequently your other readers will I think allow (though HIRTIUS may not) that the case I supposed so far from being impossible is not even very unlikely to happen, and that it probably has already happened.

HIRTIUS next proceeds to imagine a case which might occur, if Challenges were allowed. "In a Detachment, he says, there might be only four

* As this observation came in under the head of difference, we are of course to infer that the members of a General Court Martial are likely to be prejudiced.

officers qualified to sit on a Court Martial, and the prisoner might challenge the whole Court, in which case the Trial would probably have to be put off for several weeks. Now, I say, and so will every lover of Justice, that it would be better to put off the trial altogether, than to conduct it illegally. If he did Challenge the whole Court, and proved that he had the best reasons for so doing—if he clearly proved that every Member composing it, was his avowed enemy, would HIRTIUS, as President of the Court, allow the Trial to proceed, without a reference, and upon his own responsibility? We are liable to be prosecuted in the Civil Court for an iniquitous sentence; and would a Sentence passed by such a Tribunal be any thing but an iniquitous one; and would, therefore, the Members be liable to a prosecution or not? If they would, what defence would they set up? Would they say that they acted according to Custom, and therefore according to Law? They could not make a stronger Defence at all events; for Custom is the only thing which HIRTIUS can support his argument with, eager as he seems to overturn mine, and to debar a prisoner from making use of one of his most important privileges.

On hearing this Defence, the Prosecution would in all likelihood refer the Defendants (as I do HIRTIUS) to TYLER, page 179, where they would find that as the President and Members of an Inferior Court Martial have on that account (alluding to there being no Judge Advocate allowed them) much responsibility, and as the judgement of the Court may come by appeal before a General Court Martial, they ought to be particularly careful that its Proceedings be strictly conformable to Military Law, and the practice of the Army, as well as to the great principles of Justice and Equity."

HIRTIUS has not yet attempted to show us, that the practice he advocates is either in strict conformity with Military Law, or with the principles of justice and equity; I ask him therefore if he can make it appear that it is so? As to the practice of the Army, the high authority I have just quoted speaks of it as founded on the principles abovementioned; and it must necessarily be erroneous when it is not so founded.

He next endeavours to ridicule my supposition regarding the origin of denying the Right of Challenge at an inferior Court; but I am not so very far mistaken as he would make you believe, in viewing a Regimental Court Martial in the light of a Court of Enquiry; because the Articles of War order it to do, what it can only do as a Court of Enquiry. In the case of a soldier conceiving himself wronged by his immediate Commanding Officer, he is to complain thereof to the Commandant of his Regiment, who is required to summon a *Regimental Court Martial* to do justice to the complainant, &c. But in such a case, the Court Martial cannot proceed in its judicial capacity, for the defendant being a Commissioned Officer, is not amenable to it. They can only therefore (v. TYLER) pronounce their opinion whether the complaint is well or ill founded: if they are of the latter opinion, the complainant must either acquiesce, or he may appeal to a General Court Martial; and if they pronounce the complaint to be well founded, he who made it, may demand the Trial of the Officer in the usual way.

Now, HIRTIUS will allow, I hope, that this a case in which a Court Martial is nothing more than a Court of Enquiry.

As to the Right of appeal which he says a Prisoner may resort to, if he think himself wronged by his Challenge having been overruled before the inferior Court; I would recommend him not to make an assertion too boldly in so important a Case, till he is convinced of its correctness. The Articles of War only allow of an Appeal in one specified case (which is that just alluded to) and it remains therefore, for Higher Authorities than either of us, to decide how far that liberty can be extended.

The objections and arguments of HIRTIUS are not by any means of a solid nature; they stand unsupported by Law, by Justice, or by Equity; and the only thing he can say to maintain them, is, that they are according to Custom, and a Custom too, which he cannot prove to have for its basis, even the principles of Law or Justice!

To conclude, Sir, will HIRTIUS say that a man has been *justly* dealt with, if tried by another, who is known to be hostile to him? Will he tell me how the Prisoner is to be shielded from the effects of such hostility, if his Right of Appeal be disputed? and it can be (nay, I believe has been) with far greater justice, and on far better ground than his Right of Challenge? And lastly, will he assert that a Prisoner cannot remove a near relation of the person he has injured, if such a one should be a Member of his Court Martial?

Excuse the great length of this Letter, Mr. Editor, which I trust, the importance of the question under discussion will justify.

Calcutta, September 21, 1819.

AN OFFICER.

Note.—We have received another Letter from CESTURION to HIRTIUS on this subject, which is deferred from want of room.

Explanation.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR.—If your Correspondent under the signature of AN OFFICER will have the goodness to refer to the Query to which he has replied in your Journal of Tuesday the 21st instant, he will perceive that, I merely, "presumed" from recent cases, that the Mutiny Act, empowered Courts Martial to sentence a Soldier in His Majesty's service "to transportation as a Felon." A case in point appeared in most of the Public Prints of last Week.

Calcutta, Sept. 22, 1819.

AN ENQUIRER.

Maldiv Islands

The following is the account of the Maldives, their inhabitants, government, customs, &c. introduced into the narrative respecting the escape of the *Hayton's* crew, which we concluded in our paper of yesterday. We have been also politely furnished with a view of the general trade of the Maldivians, their export, weights, measures, &c. but must leave it to some future day,

Mall, in Latitude 4° 20' N. though small in extent, appears to have been selected by the sovereigns of the Maldives, for the seat of government, on account of its local advantages, being defended by nature on most sides, and capable of having its defence much increased by art. The Island is nearly circular and about three miles in circumference, being surrounded naturally by a reef on all sides except the Western, and there an artificial reef has been thrown up, connecting the extremities of the great reef, and leaving only two narrow entrances through which boats can pass, and which are shut up by booms whenever danger is apprehended from the people of the Laccadives, the ancient foes of the Maldivians. On this surrounding reef, the surf is generally high, and all hostile approach is consequently dangerous, but between the reef and the Island, the water is as smooth as a mill-pond, and generally about an hundred yards broad. Here lay all the trading vessels and fishing boats belonging to the place, the former amounting to seven, and performing voyages at the proper season to Ceylon, the Coast, Calcutta, and Chittagong—the fishing boats amounting, perhaps, to fifty or sixty. The tides are irregular, being greatly influenced by the strength of the wind, but rising generally about seven feet.

The Island itself is fortified all round, except on the Eastern side, which is the strongest by nature, and on the different sides and bastions, ten in number, I counted one hundred pieces of artillery, some of them brass guns, the largest being 12-pounders, and mostly, if not all, Dutch pieces. They are not however well mounted, or in good order, and the fortifications on which they stand are also going to decay.

The town extends over the whole island, and is remarkably neat and clean, the streets being wide, crossing each other at right angles, and always swept every morning. The entrance into it from boats is by several small gates on the Western side, where the Sultan also resides in a sort of citadel, having high walls full of loop holes, and a wet ditch surrounding it about fourteen feet wide. The Sultan's house, within this place, is built of stone and two stories high, but has a mean appearance, which is not diminished by the chopper roof that covers it. The houses of the town, which are very numerous, are very commodious, with spacious compounds neatly fenced round. They are built generally of wood and mats, some of them entirely of wood.

Two mosques are the buildings most calculated to attract the eye of a stranger, being of considerable size, and having a very respectable appearance. To one of these, the Sultan always repairs on Friday, for the purposes of devotion, when he is in good health, but while we were there, he was mostly unwell and scarcely quitted his palace. From this cause I was also deprived of the opportunity of examining the citadel, although I had been promised an introduction to his Majesty, when he found himself able to receive visitors.

All the houses of the town are provided with wells containing excellent water, and several public tanks, pukkah built, serve the inhabitants for their ablutions. Various burying grounds are to be perceived, scattered about, in which are many tomb-stones placed upright, with inscriptions in the language peculiar to the natives, cut in Arabic characters, which they use in writing it.

The Government appears to be despotic and hereditary in the family of the Sultan, who has all the members of the blood royal living with him in the citadel, in which also his regular troops are quartered, amounting to 150 men. In the exercise of the supreme authority, I was uniformly informed, that the rule of the Sultans was rather patriarchal than despotic, and the conduct of the present Sovereign fully answers the description. Those who are poor, are fed and clothed from the royal bounty, and crimes appear to be so rare and of such trifling magnitude, that punishments are never severe. When an individual is found by his conduct to disturb the general tranquillity, it is reckoned sufficient to hustle him along the street, and throw sand and water on him, the disagree attending which serves to check those who are ill tempered. Where any one may be particularly violent and refractory, a day or two in the stocks is considered adequate to recall him to a proper sense of his duty, and it is said that this severest punishment does not occur above once or twice in ten years. Indeed the inhabitants of Mall, amounting to about 2000 souls, appear to live exempted from many of the evils to which societies of more refinement and less industry are generally subjected.

The Sultan, called Mahomed Aynock Dawn, has a Ministry composed of eight chiefs, styled Viziers; four of them being of the first or highest class, and the other four inferior in rank. The General or Commander in Chief, Mahomed Dhus Maina, the Collector of Revenues, Darra Mancusaon, and Ahmet Vellane, the Shabbandar, were three of the first class. With the fourth, who was sick, I was unacquainted, neither did I learn what particular department was under his charge. The other Viziers are subordinate to these, and act under their directions as Deputies. The Viziers, as well as the Governors of rank on the most valuable Islands, draw no direct emoluments from the treasury, but have Islands assigned them for their support while in office.

The Royal Revenues are drawn from all the Islands to Mall in Coconuts, Tortoise shell, Cowries, Coir, &c. and those that are nearest supply the town with fowls, eggs, limes, bread, fruit, plantains, &c. &c. The total number of Islands under the Sultan is estimated at twelve hundred, which appears certainly very great; however, I should conceive it to be near the truth, as I have found generally what seemed at a little distance to be only one island, to be actually ten or a dozen distinct Islets. I could gather no precise intelligence to enable me to compute the whole number of inhabitants on the different Islands, and it was something curious, when I mentioned to the Commander-in-Chief that returns of population might be usefully required and obtained from all the Governors, to hear him reprobate the idea as one that would be very dangerous, and draw down calamities on the Maldives, such as overtook God's chosen people, when David numbered them.

The regular troops of the Sultan are, as I have already mentioned, about 150, dressed with red cloths round their bodies, and exercised with muskets and tulwars. They receive, each, 15 seers of rice per month, besides betel nut and pawn, and two cloths with two handkerchiefs annually. They don't appear in the present day to have any employment, but live at their ease in the citadel. Formerly, however, it is said, that national animosities stirred up an violent and long war between the inhabitants of the Maldives and Laccadives, as ever existed between the English and French; but since the Queen of Cannanore, the Sovereign of the Laccadives, has been under the British controul, these wars have ceased to display their ravages. In time of war I was informed that levies of troops were drawn from all the Islands to the scene of action, and mustered in considerable numbers.

The Mahomedan religion is the only one professed among them, and to judge from their words and actions on commencing any undertaking, they seem to be impressed with a deep sense of piety towards the Almighty. They have no newspapers there, and don't appear to know anything about the blessings of a free press or the tyranny of censorship; however, books written in their own language are not uncommon, and they seem to pay great attention to their schools, where the children are taught to read and write. According to their traditions, their ancestors arrived from the Malabar coast some centuries ago. Their language appears peculiar to themselves, at least it has no affinity to any of the Indian languages, with which the people of our crew were acquainted. Yet, in consequence of their intercourse with India, many of them speak Hindooostance, and in that language the conversations in which I engaged were carried on.

On the subject of matrimony their ideas are not shackled by any rigid system of restraint. A plurality of wives is allowed, but no concubines are to be retained by any. This last regulation seems to have arisen from the management of their priests, who have their fees for marrying, generally a rupee from those in affluent circumstances, half a rupee from people of the middle class, and about four annas from others. If this be Simony it does not appear to be of deadly weight. Nothing can be done without marriage, but then divorces may be resorted to, as easily, and I never could learn that in such cases the husband was considered under an obligation to support his rejected rib. Conscious, however, of being liable to such treatment, the young ladies take care during the season of courtship to extort as many presents as possible from their ardent lovers. Yet, with customs so free, it did not appear to me, that they were often taken advantage of.

Divorces were said to be rare, and the men generally contented themselves with two wives at most. Seafaring men, indeed, were frequently known to have wives on more than one Island that they were in the habit of visiting, but this was naturally to be expected in conformity to their customs.

The rare occurrence of divorces, and the general enjoyment of conjugal happiness, which appeared to distinguish their families, may perhaps be attributed to the exemplary conduct of the women after marriage. They are extremely industrious, and hardly ever to be seen idle, being either employed in spinning or dyeing cloth, twisting coir, picking cowries, or in the management of their domestic affairs. None seem to consider themselves entitled to indulge in idleness, or to abstain from any work that can forward the interests of their families. They dress very modestly, in garments of cotton and sometimes silk, brought close round the neck, with long sleeves and flowing to the ankles. These gowns they ornament, occasionally, with gold lace round the collar, having earrings and necklaces of gold to correspond.

Adultery and fornication are hardly ever known, but when they do occur, they are punished in a singular manner. My friend, the Chief Vizier, informed me, that a long time ago, five women, convicted of illicit intercourse with the crews of some Arab vessels, were sent, each, to an uninhabited Island, and obliged to remain there for a certain time, left to shift for themselves, and no one was allowed to visit them. When the term of banishment was expired, only one was found alive, and she died a few days after she was brought back. This example had such an effect, that no other instance has since been heard of, which could demand a similar punishment. The mode of treatment, thus specified, although revolting in the last degree to the feelings of people living in refined society, seems much better calculated to check the progress of immorality than even the heaviest damages of an Irish Court of Justice, and the mild Maldivians in this single instance seem to have considered, that desperate evils require desperate remedies, while their experience proves that they have not calculated without judgment."

[Bengal Hurkaru]

Military.

General Orders, by His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General in Council.

FORT WILLIAM, SEPTEMBER 11, 1819.

The Governor General in Council is pleased to appoint Sergeant Major Wm. Edwards, of the Most Noble the Governor General's Body Guard, to be an Overseer in the Stud Institution.

His Excellency the Commander in Chief is requested to issue the necessary subsidiary orders for Sergeant Major Edwards being placed under the orders of the Board of Superintendance.

FORT WILLIAM, SEPTEMBER 16, 1819.

The undermentioned Gentlemen having produced Certificates of their Appointments as Cadets of Artillery and Infantry on this Establishment, are admitted to the Service accordingly, and promoted, the former to the rank of Second Lieutenant, and the latter to that of Ensign, leaving the dates of their Commissions to be adjusted hereafter.

Artillery—Mr. William Trigge Garrett.

Infantry—Messrs. George Fleming, George Henry White, Vincent Shortland, and George Burney.

Captain Francis Dickson, of the 26th, and Lieutenant George Richard Pemberton, of the 28th Regiments of Native Infantry, have been permitted by the Honorable the Court of Directors to return to their duty on this Establishment, without prejudice to their rank.

FORT WILLIAM, SEPTEMBER 16, 1819.

Mr. George Templer having produced a Certificate of his Appointment as a Cadet of Infantry on this Establishment, is admitted to the Service accordingly, and promoted to the rank of Ensign; leaving the date of his Commission to be adjusted hereafter.

Captain John Backhouse Prait, of the 4th Regiment of Native Infantry, has been permitted by the Court of Directors to return to his Rank on this Establishment without prejudice to his rank.

The permission granted in General Orders of the 14th ultimo to Lieutenant Newton Wallace, Adjutant of the Cuttack Legion, to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope for the benefit of his health, is commuted to leave of absence to proceed to Sea on the same account, from the date of the sailing of the Ship Stanmore, on which he has engaged a passage.

By the Commander in Chief, Head-quarters, Calcutta, September 15, 1819.

Assistant Surgeons Macleod, Welchman, and Griffiths (lately arrived) are appointed to do duty at the Presidency General Hospital.

Ensign William Hickey is appointed to do duty with the 1st Battalion 20th Regiment at Barrackpore.

Colonel L. Thomas is posted to the 3d Regiment Native Infantry.

The undermentioned Officers have leave of absence:

Surgeon Proctor, 1st Battalion 18th Regiment, to the Presidency, on his private affairs, from 15th September to 15th October.

Sub-Lieutenant, R. A. Aird, Cuttack Legion, in extension, to enable him to rejoin, from 8th September to 31st October.

Lieutenant Rawlins, Artillery, to enable him to join his Company at Agra, from 1st October to 1st February 1820.

Head-quarters, Calcutta, September 16, 1819.

The Commander in Chief is pleased to notify, for the information of those Officers who served at the Capture of the Cape of Good Hope in 1806, that in consequence of a representation made to the Honorable Court of Directors, the Court has been pleased to authorize the commencement of the Service of all the Cadets employed on that Expedition to be calculated from the 23d of November 1805, the date on which they were attached to the Battalion of Company's Troops which was embodied by Major-General Sir David Baird and employed at the Cape.

The leave of absence granted to Acting Assistant Surgeon Rennick, of the Dromedary Corps, in General Orders of the 22d April last, is limited to 3 months at his own request.

The undermentioned Officers have leave of absence:

Lieutenant Scott, 2d Battalion 28th Regiment, from 13th August to 31st October, on Medical Certificate.

Lieutenant Bryant, 2d Battalion 23rd Regiment, from 16th September to 16th January 1820, in extension to enable him to rejoin.

Lieutenant Cusack, 2d Battalion 3d Regiment, from 10th October to 10th November, in extension, to enable him to rejoin.

Captain Thomas Young, 1st Battalion 27th Regiment, from 15th September to 15th March 1820, in extension, on Medical Certificate to remain at Subatoo.

The undermentioned Ensigns, lately promoted, are directed to proceed to Dinapore by water under the command of Captain Pratt, 2d Battalion 4th Regiment, and are appointed to do duty until further orders with the European Regiments.

Messrs. Hay Macdowall, Joseph W. J. Onseley, William Payne, Francis E. Manning, Charles Farmer, William Beckett, Miles Dorner, Fredk. C. Smith, Wm. Whitaker, Thomas Sewell, Wm. H. Halford, George Griffiths, James Stevens, Robert William Halhed, James White Brown, J. Fleming, Stuart Corbett, William Dalzell, Thomas Roberts, Edward Morhead, George Fleming, George Henry White, Vincent Shortland, George Burney, and George Templer.

Lieutenant Macqueen is appointed to officiate as Interpreter and Quarter Master to the 2d Battalion 23d Regiment, during the absence on leave of Brevet Captain Horsburgh.

Lieutenant and Adjutant Wotherspoon is appointed to officiate as Interpreter and Quarter Master to the 1st Battalion 21st Regiment, during the absence of Lieutenant McKinnon, appointed in General Orders of the 28th ultimo, to act as Pay Master of Invalids.

The undermentioned Assistant Surgeons, now attached to the General Hospital at the Presidency, are appointed to do duty under the Superintending Surgeons of Field Stations, as follows:

Assistant Surgeons Charles Walter Welchman, and John Griffiths, at Meerut.
Assistant Surgeons James Stewart, and Edward Hickman, at Cawnpore.

The two former will proceed to their Station by water with all practicable dispatch, reporting their departure from the Presidency, and subsequent progress, to the Adjutant General of the Army, and to the Deputy Adjutant General in the Field.

Assistant Surgeon Stewart will join Captain Pratt's Detachment, and afford Medical aid to it as far as Dinapore, whence he will continue his journey by water to Cawnpore. Assistant Surgeon Hickman will hold himself in readiness to proceed to Cawnpore, but will not leave the Presidency until further orders.

Lieutenant R. C. Macdonald, of the 1st Battalion 25th Regiment, now at the Presidency, is directed to join and do duty with the 2d Battalion 18th Native Infantry at Berhampore, until further orders.

Lieutenant Colonel Whitehead's appointment of Lieutenant Malden, to act as Adjutant to the 1st Battalion 9th Regiment, during the absence of Lieutenant and Adjutant Henderson, is confirmed.

The undermentioned Officers have leave of absence:

Lieutenant Smout, Horse Artillery Brigade, from 1st October to 1st February 1820, on urgent private affairs to the Presidency.

Lieutenant J. F. Paton, Engineers, Executive Officer, Kemaoon, from 31st October to 30th April 1820, on urgent private affairs to the Presidency.

Head-quarters, Calcutta, September 16, 1819.

With the sanction of the Most Noble the Governor General in Council, a partial Relief of the Troops is to take place, at the Time, and in the Order hereafter detailed.

1st.—To relieve the Corps at the Advanced Position of Neemuch, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ludlow.

4th Regiment Light Cavalry, from Muttra.
1st Battalion 5th Regiment Native Infantry, from Goorgaon.
2d Battalion 26th Ditto, from Kurnaul.

2d.—To relieve the Corps in Rajpootanah.

1st Regiment Light Cavalry, from Muttra.
2d Battalion 2d Regiment Native Infantry, from Delhi.
1st Ditto 7th Ditto, from Agra.
1st Ditto 24th Ditto, from Litto.
1st Ditto 17th Ditto, from Hansi.

3d.—To relieve the Corps at Sager.

Gardner's Horse, from Bareilly.
1st Battalion 3d Regiment Native Infantry from Etawah.
2d Ditto 3d Ditto, from Banda.
2d Ditto 6th Ditto, from Mooradabad.
2d Ditto 9th Ditto, from Keitah.
1st Ditto 12th Ditto, from Pertaubgurh.
2d Ditto 17th Ditto, from Mirzapore and Kissungunjee.

4th.—The following Changes of Quarters are also ordered.

1st Battalion 16th Regiment Native Infantry, from Dacca and Chittagong to Dinapore and Kissungunjee.
1st Ditto 9th Ditto, from Barrackpore to Dinapore.

2d Ditto 4th Ditto, from Dinapore to Allahabad.
2d Ditto 14th Ditto, from Dinapore to Cawnpore and Fatty-Gurh.
2d Ditto 11th Ditto, from Fatty-Gurh to Dacca and Chittagong.
2d Ditto 16th Ditto, from Loodhianab to Lohargong.
1st Ditto 25th Ditto, from Meerut to Loodhianah.
1st Ditto 4th Ditto, from Bareilly to Muttra.

1st Ditto 21st Ditto, from Allahabad to Banda.
2d Ditto 12th Ditto, from Muttra to Ally-Gurh and Almora.
1st Ditto 13th Ditto, from Ally-Gurh and Almora to Benares (District).
2d Ditto 24th Ditto, from Lohargong to Bareilly.

5th.—The Regiments and Battalions coming from the Advanced Positions are to be thus Stationed.

From Neemuch. 3d Regiment Light Cavalry, Muttra.
1st Battalion 1st Regiment Nat. Inf. Kurnaul.

1st Ditto 6th Ditto, Goorgaon.

2d Battalion 7th Regiment Nat. Inf. Keitah.

From Rajpootanah. 1st Ditto 19th Ditto, Etawah.

1st Ditto 27th Ditto, Meerut.

1st Ditto 28th Ditto, Agra.

8th Regiment Light Cavalry, Pertab-Gurh (On Je.)
2d Battalion 1st Regiment Nat. Inf. Pertab-Gurh (Oude.)

2d Ditto 5th Ditto, Agra.

2d Ditto 15th Ditto, Barrackpore.

From Sager. 1st Ditto 14th Ditto, Hansi.

1st Ditto 26th Ditto, Delhi.

2d Ditto 29th Ditto, Mooradabad and Shahjahanpur.

2d Rohilla Cavalry, Cawnpore.

From the Merzuddah—7th Light Cavalry, Bundelcund.

6th.—Time and Order of Movement.

The 1st Regiment Light Cavalry will march from Muttra on the 11th Proximo to join the Rajpootanah Field Force; on the approach of this Corps to Nusseerabad Brigadier Knox will be pleased to put the 2d Regiment Light Cavalry in motion for Hussingabad for the relief of the 7th Light Cavalry, which, when relieved, is to march to Bundiecund, where it is to be stationed. On the 15th October one Wing of the 5th Regiment Light Cavalry will march for Muttra, and on its arrival there the 4th Regiment will proceed and relieve the 3d Regiment at Neemuch. On the arrival of the 7th Regiment in Bundiecund the remaining Wing of the 5th Light Cavalry will march to Muttra, where the Regiment is to be stationed. The 1st Rohillah Cavalry will march for Bareilly on the 15th October, leaving 2 Russells at Pertabgarh until the arrival there of the 8th Light Cavalry. On the arrival of the 1st Rohillah Cavalry at Bareilly Lieutenant Colonel Gardner will proceed with his Corps to Cawnpore, where it is to be collected and inspected by Major General Sir D. Marshall, K. C. B., previously to its moving forward to the frontier.

On the 15th October ensuing, or as soon after as may be practicable, the un-mentioned Corps and Divisions of Corps will commence their march for the destinations assigned to them.

Left Wing 1st Battalion 3d, 2d Battalion 4th, Left Wing 1st Battalion 5th, 1st Battalion 9th, Right Wing 1st Battalion 12th, Right Wing 2d Battalion 12th, 2d Battalion 13th, 2d Battalion 16th, Right Wing 1st Battalion 17th, Left Wing 2d Battalion 17th, 1st Battalion 24th, 2d Battalion 26th, 1st Battalion 27th.

On the arrival of the 1st Battalion 9th at Danapore the 2d Battalion 14th will march to Cawnpore and Futtighur. On the arrival of the 2d Battalion 4th at Allahabad the 1st Battalion 21st will move to Banda and relieve the 2d Battalion 3d; on being relieved the 2d Battalion 3d will proceed to Sagor, and on its arrival there the 2d Battalion 1st is to proceed to its Station. On the arrival at Sagor of the 1st Division of the 1st Battalion 12th the whole of the 2d Battalion 8th is to proceed to Agra. On the arrival of the 2d Battalion 1st at Pertab-Ghur the remaining Wing of the 1st Battalion 12th will march for Sagor, and on its arrival there the 1st Battalion 26th is to be put in motion for Delhi. The 2d Battalion 2d, on the arrival at Delhi of the last mentioned Corps, will move and relieve the 1st Battalion 28th in Rajpootanah. On the arrival of the Right Wing of the 2d Battalion 12th at Almora the Division of the 1st Battalion 13th will move to Moradabad, and occupy that Post until the arrival of the 2d Battalion 28th from Sagor. The Division 2d Battalion 6th when thus relieved will march to Sagor. The Officer Commanding in Rohileund will detach 3 Companies from Bareilly to Shajehanpore to relieve the Division of the 2d Battalion 6th at that Post, in time to admit of the whole Battalion marching together to its destination. On the arrival of the 2d Battalion 6th at Sagor the 1st Battalion 14th is to march to Hansi, and on its arrival there, the remaining Wing of the 1st Battalion 17th will proceed to its Station. On the arrival of the 1st Battalion 24th in Rajpootanah the 2d Battalion 17th will proceed to Etawah, and on its arrival there the remaining Wing of the 1st Battalion 3d will move to its Station. On the arrival of the 1st Division 1st Battalion 3d at Sagor one Wing or the whole (if it can be spared) of the 2d Battalion 28th will move to Rohileund and occupy the Posts of Mooradabad and Shajehanpore. The Right Wing 1st Battalion 13th, when relieved by a Division of the 2d Battalion 28th, is to march to Juapore, where it is to be stationed. On being relieved the Left Wing of the same Corps will proceed to the Cantonment at Mirzapore (Benares). On the arrival of the 2d Battalion 8th at Agra the 1st Battalion 7th will move to its Station, and on its arrival in Rajpootanah the 2d Battalion 7th is to march to Keitah in Bundiecund and relieve the 2d Battalion 9th, which will then join the Sagor Field Force.

On the arrival of the 2d Battalion 26th at Neemuch the 1st Battalion 6th will march for Goorgaon, and on its arrival there the Right Wing 1st Battalion 5th will proceed to its Station. On the arrival at Neemuch of the Left Wing 1st Battalion 5th the whole of the 1st Battalion 1st, or one Wing of the Corps, as Lieutenant Colonel Ludlaw may think fit, is to be put in motion for Kurnaul. On being relieved, the 1st Battalion 4th, 2d Battalion 24th, and 1st Battalion 25th, will proceed to the Stations respectively assigned to them.

On the arrival of the Divisions of the 2d Battalion 11th at Dacca and Chittagong, the Divisions of the 1st Battalion 16th, now occupying those Posts, will march, the former to Kissungunje, and the latter to Danapore.

The General Officer Commanding in the Field will receive instructions relative to the time and mode of sending the 2d Battalion 11th to the destination above assigned to the Corps.

The Officer Commanding the District of Benares will provide for the duties of the Post of Mirzapore, so as to allow of the Division 2d Battalion 17th now there, marching for Sagor at the time above ordered.

7th.—A Journal of the Route which each Corps, or Division of a Corps, will have to perform at the Relief now ordered, is to be kept by the Commanding Officers in the Form observed in the printed Tables of Routes and Stages; and on the completion of the march the same is to be transmitted to the Quarter Master General of the Army; In these Journals the State of the Roads, the nature of the Encamping Ground and of the Face of the Country, the quality of the Water, the abundance or otherwise of Supplies, as well as all Occurrences deserving of notice are to be carefully entered in the column of Remarks; this direction is to be considered a Standing Order of the Army, and is to be punctually observed in future by Commanding Officers of Corps whenever ordered to march for any purpose.

8th.—Weekly States of all Corps or Divisions of Corps, when marching, are invariably to be transmitted to the Adjutant General of the Army.

9th.—The attention of Commanding Officers is particularly called to Regulation XI. of 1806, and to the Standing Orders of the Service applicable to the Relief and Movements of Troops, the protection of the Inhabitants and their Property, the Care and Preservation of Buildings, Public and Private, including the Huts of the Men, also to the prescribed reports to the Military Auditor General, Magistrates and Collectors of Districts, &c.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We refer our Correspondent "a Wellwisher," to the 714th page of the Second Volume of our Journal, in a Number for the month of March, where he will find a full account of the wonderful acquirements of Mr. Lee, in a comparison instituted between him and the Admirable Crichton, which renders it unnecessary for us to publish that sent us by him. His letter will be returned on application at the Office.

A letter signed "Dando" has been received, and will also be returned when applied for. It is evident that the writer of this letter is a stranger to us and to the principles upon which the Calcutta Journal is conducted, or he could never have supposed for a moment, that his frivolous, unmeaning, and indecent production, would be suffered to disgrace its columns. We beg that we may never again be pained by the perusal of such disgusting and obscene trash.

The verses of "Polyanthus" are also inadmissible.

Several other Communications have reached us, and are under Consideration.

Domestic Occurrences.

BIRTHS.

At Cuddalore, on the morning of the 21st ultimo, the Lady of P. Boyd, Esq. of a Son and Heir.

At Azimgurh, on the 10th instant, the Lady of J. V. Biscoe, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Daughter.

At Allahabad, on the 14th instant, the Lady of William John Sands, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Son.

At Futtighur, on the 8th instant, the Lady of Major C. S. Fagan, of a Daughter.

DEATHS.

At Jooria, on the 29th of July, after a short but severe illness, Mr. Assistant Surgeon James Roy.

At Purneah, on the 14th instant, Captain William Macpherson, universally and deservedly regretted by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. In him it might without flattery be said, were combined the *Savoir en Modo*, with the *Fortiter in Re*.

Drowned on Sunday night, at half past 10 o'clock, off Smith's Ghat, Mr. Richard Todd, of the H. C. Powder Works, at Ishapore, aged 28 years, and Mr. George Barnes, Junior Officer of the Ship Northumbrian, aged 17 years.

These two worthy young men, the former of whom had endeared himself to all who knew him by his disinterested friendship and integrity, and the latter whose early virtues promised a glorious manhood, were precipitated into eternity through the unskillfulness of the Manjee, who in endeavoring to make the Northumbrian, unfortunately got athwart hawse of a Brig's cable, lying a short distance astern, when the boat instantly went to pieces, and only the natives were saved; these were rescued from a watery grave by the laudable exertions of the Commanders and Officers of the surrounding ships, one of whom (Captain Court) had the pleasing gratification of saving three by his own hands.

At Meerut, on the 21st of August, of the Cholera Morbus, brought on by incessant exertion in his professional duty, Mr. Charles Smith Templeton, Apothecary, Honorable Company's Service, attached to His Majesty's 14th Regiment of Foot, aged 21 years and 6 months, Son of Daniel Templeton, Esq. late Register of the Military Department. He was a young man of promising high abilities, universally esteemed, and deeply regretted by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

On her passage to England from Bengal, on the 23d of January, Fanny, the much lamented wife of Lieutenant Colonel Cumberlege.

Shipping Intelligence.

CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Sept. 22	Catharine	British	R. Gibson	Masulipatam

MADRAS ARRIVALS

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Aug. 26	Mary Anne	British	J. Anderson	Coringa	Aug. 11
27	Admiral Drury	British	R. Johnson	Masulipatam	Aug. 6
31	Mary	British	A. Scott	Calcutta	Aug. 3

MADRAS DEPARTURES.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Aug. 28	Seaford	British	J. Davis	Liverpool
31	Admiral Drury	British	R. Johnson	Trincomalee

Commercial Reports.

The whole manufactory of Cloth produced in Yorkshire, in the year 1818, was 15,967,595 yards; in 1817 there were milled 16,208,099 yards—consequently the decrease in 1818 is 210,492 yards.

The Leeds and other Yorkshire papers notice the alarming decrease of upwards of 249,000 pieces of cloth in the manufacture of 1818, as computed with the preceding.